MIT's Oldest and Largest Newspaper

thetech.com

The Tech
Established 1881

Volume 142, Number 15

Thursday, August 4, 2022

WEATHER, p. 1

THU: 98°F | 77°F
Sunny.

FRI: 95°F | 70°F
Chance Showers.

SAT: 90°F | 76°F
Sunny.

MIT recommends students to get tested for COVID-19 before arriving on campus in the fall

Students who test positive should email MIT, adjust their date of arrival, and follow CDC's regulations

By Kristina Chen
PUBLISHER

MIT Medical Director Cecilia Stuopis '90 wrote in an Aug. 3 email to students that MIT "strongly encourages" students to take a COVID-19 test within 48 hours of coming on campus, preferably before arrival.

Though students are not required to report their results to MIT Medical, undergraduate students who test positive should email *covid-support@mit.edu* for support. For undergraduates living on campus, they should email *residence@mit.edu* with subject line "Arrival Date Adjustment" and write their new expected date of arrival.

Returning graduate students who test positive should email *grad-ed@mit.edu*, and those living on campus should email *graduatehousing@mit.edu* with subject line "Arrival Date Adjustment" and include their new expected date of arrival.

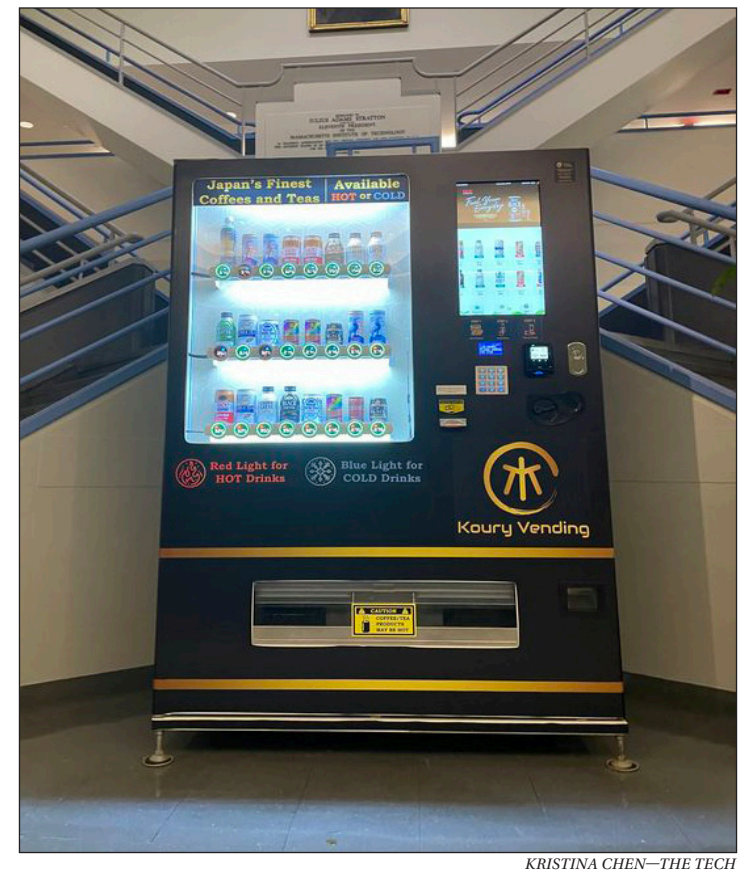
Students who test positive must also follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines surrounding masking, isolating, and avoiding travel.

MIT also recommends that students bring six to eight rapid antigen testing kits to campus. Students enrolled in the MIT Student Health Insurance Plan can receive test kits at no cost. Students can also seek free testing kits via their own insurance plans or by visiting *www.covid.gov/tests*.

On campus, students can get tests from local pharmacies or pharmacy delivery services. However, MIT Medical does not carry rapid antigen tests.

Since March 2022, MIT no longer requires daily attestation, face coverings in most buildings, and regular testing for community members. Beginning July 2022, MIT no longer offers PCR testing to community members not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. In the fall, these policies will remain in place. Additionally, events are allowed on and off campus, Tim Tickets are optional for event guests, and food and drink can be served at events.

MIT has not announced any updates to its symptom or positive test reporting policies, which require community members to report both symptoms and positive test results through COVID Pass.



KRISTINA CHEN—THE TECH

A new vending machine serving various hot and cold caffeinated Japanese beverages, including coffees and milk teas, is added to the first floor of the Stratton Student Center.



KRISTINA CHEN—THE TECH

Construction at Burton Conner appears largely complete as the dorm prepares to open for students in the fall, having been under renovation since 2020.

IN SHORT

Theses are due for September degree candidates August 5.

The **last day of classes for the regular summer session** is August 12.

August 15–16 is the **summer session final exam period.**

The **deadline for continuing students to pre-register** for fall classes is 5 p.m. at August 25.

First-year student orientation and graduate student orientation activities begin August 28.

Registration opens for all students August 29.

Interested in **joining *The Tech*?** Email *join@tech.mit.edu.*

Send news and tips to *news@tech.mit.edu.*

WEATHER

Unwavering heatwave on its way

By Phoebe Lin
CHIEF METEOROLOGIST

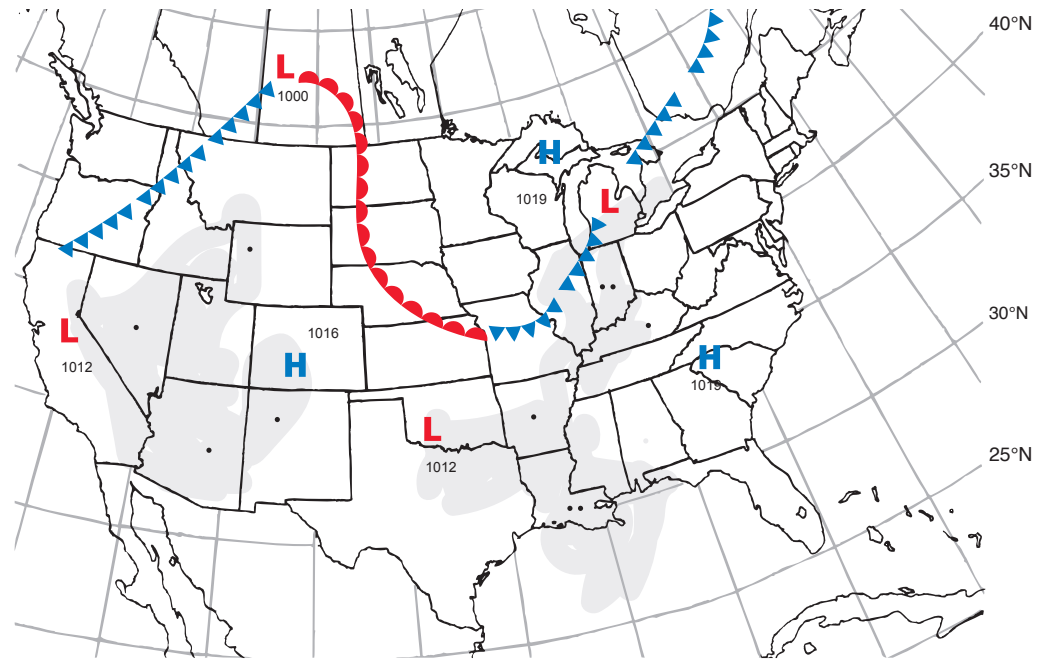
Heat Advisories are in place for much of the Northeast as Boston is expecting temperatures in the upper 90's for the end of this week. Dewpoints are steadily rising, and the available moisture in the air may lead to some possible scattered thunderstorm activity later this week.

Make sure to stay hydrated and cool, and to stay indoors if you hear the rumbling of convection outside.

Although August is expected to be even warmer than usual this year, at least we can look forward to coming back on campus and meeting new and old friends! Can you imagine going out for ice cream, or cooling off in our air-conditioned libraries?

Extended Forecast

Today: Sunny. High around 98°F (37°C). East winds around 7-10 mph.
Tonight: Mostly clear. Low around 77°F (25°C). Southwest winds around 10-15 mph.
Tomorrow: Chance thunderstorms. High around 95°F (35°C) and low around 70°F (21°C). Southwest winds around 5-10 mph.
Saturday: Chance showers. High around 90°F (32°C) and low around 76°F (24°C). Southwest winds around 7-10 mph.
Sunday: Sunny. High around 95°F (35°C) and low around 73°F (23°C). Southwest winds around 7-12 mph.



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, August 4, 2022

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols			Other Symbols
			Snow	Rain	
H High Pressure	Trough	Showers	* ▽	• ▽	Fog
L Low Pressure	Warm Front	Light	*	•	Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	Cold Front	Moderate	**	••	Haze
	Stationary Front	Heavy	⁂	∴	

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and *The Tech*

HUMAN RIGHTS FOR AN MIT GRADUATE

"How is 'the totality of our interests' undermined by demanding the release of a single innocent human being, Seif Fateen — a defenseless professor of chemical engineering arbitrarily detained in Egypt?"

OPINION, p. 2

BREATHING UNDERWATER

"Scuba diving is like going back to kindergarten: reviving the childlike quality of finding joy in the small things. Fish of all kinds swim past, creating a swirl of colors, stripes, and shapes that dazzle me." **CAMPUS LIFE, p. 3**

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The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Thursdays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations) and monthly during the summer by The Tech, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Subscriptions are $50.00 per year (third class). **POSTMASTER:** Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. **TELEPHONE:** Editorial: (617) 253-1541. Business: (617) 258-8324. Facsimile: (617) 258-8226. *Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available.* Entire contents © ***2022 The Tech***. *Printed by Graphic Developments, Inc.*

GUEST COLUMN

Seif Fateen: An MIT-educated professor languishing in Egypt’s prisons

The Biden administration and its spokespeople can no longer delay action on human rights

By T. Alan Hatton, Assaf Kfoury, and Haynes Miller

We write to draw attention to the appalling conditions of degradation and helplessness that have befallen a member of the MIT community in Egypt. Our hope is that some members of the Institute will be motivated to join a campaign to save Seif Fateen and redress the cruel injustices that he has endured for more than three years.

Seif Fateen completed his PhD at MIT in 2002. He lived and worked in the U.S., where three of his seven children were born, until 2005. On his return to Egypt, he took up a faculty position at Cairo University, and from 2009 until his arrest in 2018, he regularly posted educational videos to his YouTube channel, including a popular series on thermodynamics for chemical engineers. In 2012, he became Assistant to the Minister of Higher Education, a short-lived tenure that was brought to an abrupt end in July 2013 by the military coup that toppled President Mohamed Morsi, of the Muslim Brotherhood organization. The July 2013 coup was led by Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, former field marshall and chief of military intelligence of the Egyptian army, against the nascent Egyptian democracy less than three years after the Arab Spring uprisings of 2011.

Fateen’s function in the Ministry of Higher Education under Morsi, together with his association with former parliamentarians when Morsi was president, seems to have been his crime in the eyes of the Egyptian security services.

In November 2018, security officers affiliated with the Interior Ministry raided Fateen’s home, confiscating laptops, mobile phones, and books. He was arrested without a warrant, taken blindfolded to an unknown detention center, and forcibly disappeared for more than nine months; his family knew nothing of his whereabouts or whether he was even alive.

In coordination with Fateen’s daughter Rahma, currently a college student in Norway, the Freedom Initiative, a D.C.-based human rights organization, first alerted the public to Fateen’s case in March of this year. They reported that Fateen had been subjected to torture and mistreatment, including beating, electric shocks to the genitalia, and prolonged periods during which he was blindfolded and handcuffed to a pipe in the wall. He was eventually moved to the Qanater prison complex in September 2019 and has been held there since. He is now confined to his cell, which he shares with over 20 other inmates, for at least 22 hours a day. He is allowed visits by a single family member once per month and is prevented from receiving books, warm clothes, or medicine.

Alan Hatton, who was Fateen’s PhD advisor at MIT in the late 1990s and early 2000s, was shocked to hear of his former student’s confinement and the severity of his treatment in Cairo, recalling that Seif was one of the kindest and most honorable students he has had the pleasure of working with — someone who cared deeply for his family, his country, and his religion, and who was a highly-regarded academic in Egypt. It is truly unfortunate that his service to education in Egypt during the short Morsi governance should have resulted in such brutal treatment by the Sisi regime.

While Seif Fateen is only one man caught in the web of a sprawling complex of prisons, his torment epitomizes the scourge of ruthless repression that countless Egyptians have had to suffer since the July 2013 coup, when Sisi unleashed a police state far more repressive than the government of his autocratic predecessor Hosni Mubarak — an assessment U.S. congressional researchers confirm.

After more than three years of waiting for a reprieve from a notoriously erratic judicial system, Fateen is one of very few incarcerated Egyptians with international contacts. It is a matter of great courage for his family to risk retaliation by bringing his case to public attention.

On Sisi’s watch, Egypt’s security agencies have indiscriminately jailed critics, human rights defenders, and public figures across the political spectrum, from leftists to Islamists. They have acted with no restraint, brazenly cranking up repression so that not even the faintest whispers of opposition to Sisi’s policies can persist. And this has happened with unflinching American support. For decades now, the top two recipients of the U.S. Foreign Military Financing (FMF) program have been Israel (about $3.1 billion annually) and Egypt (about $1.3 billion annually), and together they account for about 75% of the total annual FMF.

The numbers from advocacy groups including *Human Rights Watch* and *Amnesty International* tell a grim story for those who fall prey to Egypt’s security apparatus. The *Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights* reports that “torture and ill-treatment have become systematic in Egypt’s prisons, and security services enjoy impunity when treating detainees inhumanely.” This assessment is corroborated by an extensive documentation in a report from the State Department, which also mentions on page eight that the total prison population is currently estimated “at more than 119,000 located in an estimated 78 prisons, including approximately 82,000 convicted prisoners and 37,000 pretrial detainees.”

Although President Joe Biden is in the habit of asserting that “human rights are at the core of U.S. foreign policy,” he has never called out the Sisi regime for its policies of “extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions, mass trials, mass death sentences, torture, and systematic intimidation of media workers.” In fact, in a meeting with the Egyptian president July 16, Biden declared that he is “looking forward to working with [Sisi] on a whole range of issues,” none of which included the Egyptian government’s brutal abuse of political prisoners.

Perhaps more diplomatic, but no less deceitful, Secretary of State Antony Blinken has invoked “the totality of our interests” to explain delays of action on human rights. It is high time to challenge the Biden administration and its spokespeople: How is “the totality of our interests” undermined by demanding the release of a single innocent human being, Seif Fateen — a defenseless professor of chemical engineering arbitrarily detained in Egypt?

T. Alan Hatton is the Ralph Landau Professor of Chemical Engineering Practice.

Assaf Kfoury is a professor in the Department of Computer Science at Boston University.

Haynes Miller is a professor emeritus in the Department of Mathematics.



OPINION POLICY

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the Editorial Board, which consists of Publisher Kristina Chen, Editor in Chief Wenbo Wu, Managing Editor William Xu, Executive Editor Chloe McCreery, and the opinion editor, a position that is currently vacant.

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VIVIAN'S REFLECTIONS

Breathe in, breathe out

Being present

By Vivian Hir
STAFF WRITER

Exploding eardrums. Collapsed lungs. Leaky regulator. As the scuba diving instructor mentioned potential safety issues that may arise from poor scuba diving techniques, I couldn't get my mind off of the ever-looming dread of death. The actual probability of a scuba diving disaster was very low, of course — the instructor wanted everyone to be safe. But I couldn't stop thinking about the snorkeling debacle that happened the day before.

The previous day, I tried snorkeling in Maui. How snorkeling works is simple: instead of using your nose to breathe, you use your mouth. This should be easy — after all, everyone *can* breathe with their mouth, at least above water. I, however, struggled to let this fact reassure me that everything would be fine. The moment I plunged my head in the water, panic flooded my system. I can't breathe. *I can't do this anymore. I am going to die.*

A few seconds later, I ripped off the snorkel from my mouth and gasped for air, choking on the strong, salty seawater. I wanted to call it quits, but seeing my dad and brother snorkel with ease made me want to try again. And the same thing happened. Frustrated, I gave up and went back to shore. A day later, the idea of entering the ocean still felt like a death sentence to me.

"I'm scared," I mumbled to my instructor. I didn't want to pretend that everything was fine, yet at the same time, I didn't want my personal problems to slow down the rest of the group.

"It's okay. It's all about the nerves. You can practice using the regulator like a snorkel before scuba diving."

I put on the regulator and hesitated for a few seconds before submerging my head in the water. When I exhaled, I saw a plethora of bubbles emerge from the regulator, and the same paralyzing fear came back again. *I am drowning, I am drowning.* I went up to the surface right away and took many short, rapid breaths as if I was on the verge of dying.

I felt embarrassed and didn't want to disappoint the instructor anymore. Breathing is one of the most primitive things a human can do, so what made scuba diving so hard for me? Sure, breathing through your mouth is different from through your nose, but in the end, it's still breathing. It wasn't the swimming factor — I learned how to swim at an early age. "Think of meditation. Breathe in … and breathe out," the instructor said with a soothing voice. I kept repeating these words like a mantra in my head, slowing down my breathing and listening to my rhythmic breath before trying again.

Being a pessimist, I anticipated things to fail again, but this time I was surprised that I managed to stay submerged after exhaling. I was still unfamiliar with using the regulator, but after a couple of breaths, I gradually developed a natural breathing rhythm. Within a few minutes, I went from being frightened of scuba diving to loving the magic superpower of breathing underwater. I felt invincible.

The forty minutes I spent scuba diving was probably one of the few times in my life that I was solely focused on the present. I had never experienced true silence before. As I scuba dive, I listen to the deep breaths I take and don't let other thoughts distract me. I feel the gentle rise of my chest as I inhale and the slow movement of my lungs as I breathe out. The usually omnipresent buzz of my never-ending thoughts comes to a pause. It is as if the ocean has this switch that turns off the busy part of my mind. I've tried guided meditation numerous times before, but scuba diving was so much more powerful.

The physical sensations I experience underwater while scuba diving are unparalleled. Even past experiences of swimming can't compare to what I currently feel: a sense of weightlessness. I am not sinking or ascending, just floating above the reefs as if experiencing zero gravity. I am amazed by how *close* I am to being an astronaut. I love gliding effortlessly in the ocean, only needing the gentle kicking of my feet to propel me forward, unlike the frantic arm movements and constant head rotation in swimming.

Scuba diving is like going back to kindergarten: reviving the childlike quality of finding joy in the small things. Fish of all kinds swim past, creating a swirl of colors, stripes, and shapes that dazzle me. A surprise unfolds before me as I see a small eel slither through the coral reefs. Even the act of touching a red pencil urchin for the first time gives me delight. I expected the sea urchin to feel rough and coarse due to its spiky appearance, but it is smooth instead.

The best part of the scuba diving experience was seeing a sea turtle roam freely in the pristine waters of Maui, a sight no aquarium will ever match. When I am ten feet from the turtle, time slows down. What I experience doesn't feel like reality, but rather some dream in which I've entered a *National Geographic* documentary about Earth's precious oceans. The turtle's graceful, peaceful movements in water stun me. Sunlight shines on the turtle as if it is a spotlight and the turquoise background of the water complements the scene. For a brief moment in time, I feel like I am a nature photographer. My emerging thoughts are like the beams of light from above, radiating in all directions. *This is what a photographer feels when they get to see wildlife with their naked eye, the reward of getting a beautiful shot.* A warm feeling of gratitude for having the opportunity to witness one of nature's greatest beauties fills my body, something I hadn't expected from just seeing a sea turtle.

When the sea turtle swims away and I begin ascending to the surface of the water, I think about how many firsts in my life happened in the past hour: feeling weightless, swimming with a sea turtle, etc. I also reflect upon how scuba diving made me grow a lot as a person as it forced me to confront one of my biggest fears. The only way to overcome a fear is by facing it; coming up with mental strategies beforehand can only do so much. Having the awareness that I can go against my expectations, I feel that more adventurous experiences are closer to my reach than before. Whether it is flying a hot-air balloon or parasailing, I am more open to trying these risk-seeking activities. I may be nervous, but I will try to quiet my thoughts.

Breathe in. Breathe out.



Got a lot on your mind?

Share some thoughts with us!
Write for Campus Life. *join@tech.mit.edu*

Solution to Busy Birds
from page 4

B	U	L	K	Y		B	L	O	C	
R	H	I	N	O		R	O	A	R	
R	U	M	O	R		U	N	T	O	
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M	S	T		N	I	T	E		I	M
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J	O	K	E		N	U	N	S		T
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M	B	A	S							
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T	S									
I	D	E	A	L						
N	E	W	L	Y						

Solution to Gladiolus
from page 4

4	5	9	2	8	6	7	3	1
6	7	1	3	4	9	2	8	5
3	8	2	1	5	7	6	9	4
9	4	3	5	6	2	1	7	8
7	1	6	8	9	4	3	5	2
8	2	5	7	3	1	4	6	9
1	6	8	9	2	3	5	4	7
5	3	7	4	1	8	9	2	6
2	9	4	6	7	5	8	1	3

Solution to Poppy
from page 4

9	4	2	5	1	3	6	8	7
6	8	1	2	7	9	5	3	4
3	5	7	6	8	4	9	2	1
4	7	6	8	3	5	1	9	2
2	9	3	7	6	1	4	5	8
5	1	8	9	4	2	7	6	3
1	2	9	4	5	8	3	7	6
7	3	5	1	2	6	8	4	9
8	6	4	3	9	7	2	1	5

Biz pays the billz

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Gladiolus

Solution, page 3

4					6	7		
		1			9		8	
				5			9	4
		3	5			1	7	8
7								2
8	2	5			1	4		
1	6			2				
	3		4			9		
		4	6					3

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Poppy

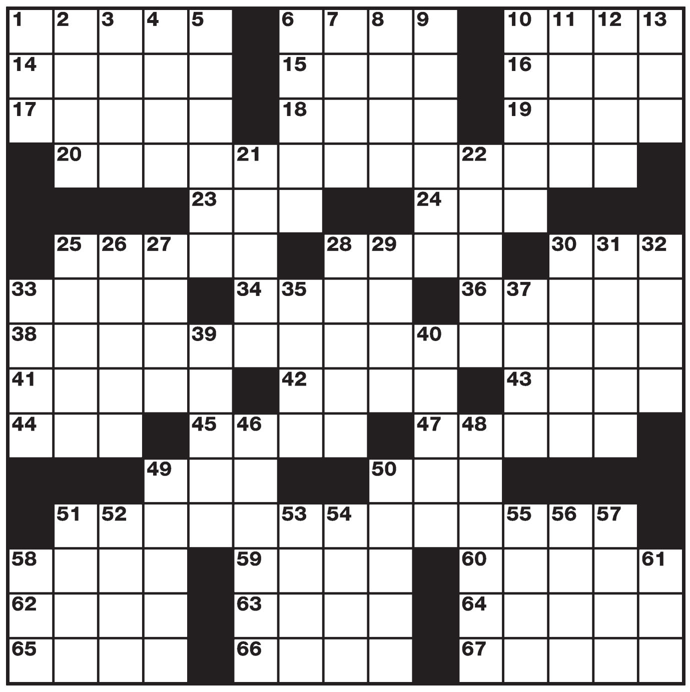
Solution, page 3

9		2	5					
	8		2	7	9		3	
		7			4	9		
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2								8
				4			6	3
		9	4			3		
	3		1	2	6		4	
					7	2		5

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Busy Birds by Bruce Venzke

Solution, page 3

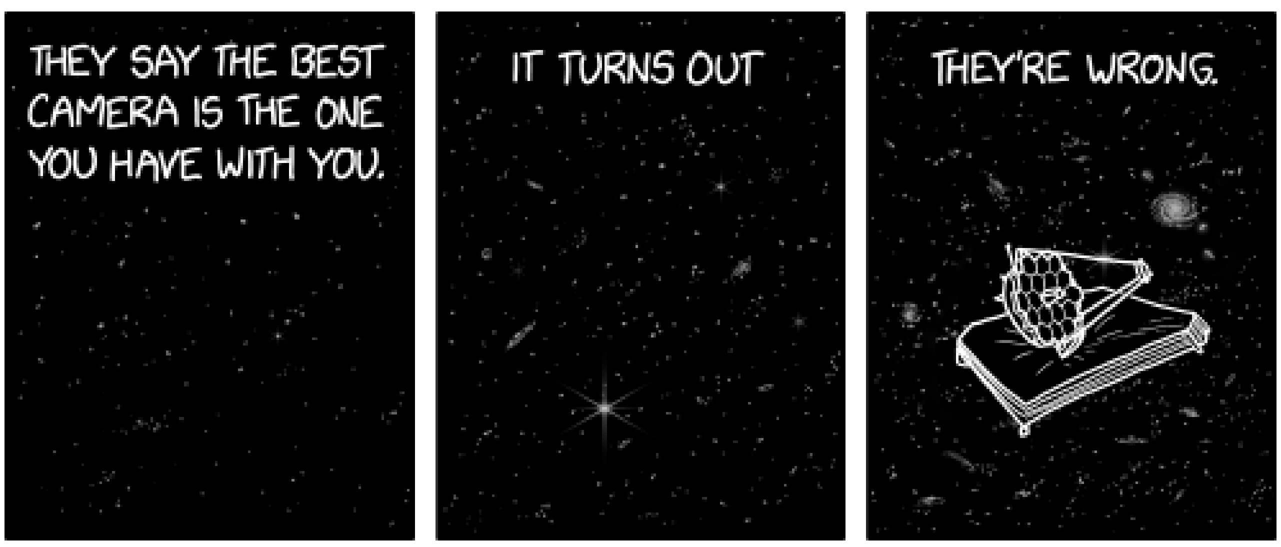


ACROSS
1 Cumbersome to carry
6 Coalition of politicians
10 Chunk of concrete
14 Nose-horned safari beast
15 Lion's cry
16 Pepsi or Coke
17 Unconfirmed report
18 Golden Rule preposition
19 Ripened, as cheese
20 Peddle merchandise
23 NYSE debut
24 Point opposite SSW
25 Guide a car
28 Attention-getting whisper
30 Basic cable network
33 Israeli airline
34 Made a landing
36 Husbands of countesses
38 Be evasive in answering
41 Stand up
42 Supply the money for
43 Degs. in finance
44 Winter hrs. in Colorado
45 Evening, in some ads
47 "No more for me, thanks"
49 __ favor (please, to Ruiz)
50 Incoming plane stat.
51 Echo words unthinkingly
58 One-liner, for example
59 Convent residents
60 Leans slightly
62 Yale students
63 Delve __ (investigate)
64 Standard of perfection
65 Hamilton's currency
66 First son in the Bible
67 Very recently

DOWN
1 "It's freezing in here!"
2 Informal denial
3 Capital of Peru
4 Be aware of
5 Silky-haired terrier, for short
6 Shoe designer Magli
7 __ Star State (Texas)
8 Grains in granola bars
9 Headgear for queens and kings
10 Frighten
11 Theater tier
12 Beverages like beer
13 Not well-behaved
21 TV host Winfrey
22 Poker-pot starters
25 Speaks unclearly
26 Unspoken but implied
27 Antlered cousins of deer
28 Make angry
29 Surprise greatly
30 Large family
31 Overstuff
32 Government-issued IDs
33 Dutch cheese
35 Walked away
37 24-hr. cash dispensers
39 Male choir voice
40 Author Wharton
46 Amusingly unexpected
48 President Van Buren
49 Smooth out with an iron
50 Japanese printer brand
51 Global top or bottom
52 Similar (to)
53 __ fish sandwich
54 Prefix for freeze
55 Workplace assistant
56 Large quantity
57 List-ending abbr.
58 Plane without propellers
61 Guileful

xkcd
A WEBCOMIC OF ROMANCE, SARCASM, MATH, AND LANGUAGE
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[2645] The Best Camera



The best camera is the one at L2.